

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 8, 17, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application 0 390 755 (Ionescu '755). Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Ionescu '755 in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0020159 (Zucker '159). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Ionescu '755 in view of U.S. Patent 4,894,280 (Guthrie '280). Claims 6-7, 11-16, 18-20, 22, and 23 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have amended claim 3 to correct a typographical error and overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of claim 3.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations from claim 13 and cancelled claim 13. Applicants have made corresponding dependency amendments to claims 14, 15, and 19 to depend from claim 1, and Applicants have cancelled claim 22. Applicants have rewritten claim 11 in independent form by incorporating the limitations from claim 1 into amended claim 11. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-12, 13-21, and 23 remain pending in the present application.

For at least the preceding reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this

amendment, then Examiner Salvatore is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience. If any fee not accounted for above is required for entry of this Amendment or papers filed herewith, authorization is hereby granted to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1403. If any petition is required for entry, such petition is hereby made and any associated fees may also be charged to our deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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